

In the claims:

1-20. (Presently Canceled)

21. (Presently Presented): An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:

a) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is at least 95% identical to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide having carboxylesterase activity, or a full complement thereof;

b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is at least 95% identical to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide having carboxylesterase activity, or a full complement thereof; and

c) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the polypeptide has carboxylesterase activity.

22. (Presently Presented): An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:

a) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3, or a full complement thereof;

b) a nucleic acid molecule consisting of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3, or a full complement thereof;

c) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or a full complement thereof; and

d) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or a full complement thereof.

23. (Presently Presented): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 21, further comprising vector nucleic acid sequences.

24. (Presently Presented): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 22, further comprising vector nucleic acid sequences.

25. (Presently Presented): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 21, further comprising nucleic acid sequences encoding a heterologous polypeptide.

26. (Presently Presented): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 22, further comprising nucleic acid sequences encoding a heterologous polypeptide.

27. (Presently Presented): An isolated host cell which contains the nucleic acid molecule of claim 21.

28. (Presently Presented): The host cell of claim 27 which is a mammalian host cell.

29. (Presently Presented): An isolated host cell which contains the nucleic acid molecule of claim 22.

30. (Presently Presented): The host cell of claim 29 which is a mammalian host cell.

31. (Presently Presented): A method for producing a polypeptide, comprising culturing the host cell of claim 27 under conditions in which the nucleic acid molecule is expressed, thereby producing a polypeptide.

32. (Presently Presented): A method for producing a polypeptide, comprising culturing the host cell of claim 29 under conditions in which the nucleic acid molecule is expressed, thereby producing a polypeptide.